

Your Place In God's Program 1 of 2

#0075

Study given by W.D. Frazee - March 30, 1979

I find myself feeling very much at home in a meeting of nurses. It may be that I've been in it longer than anyone here. When I was just a young fellow in my late teens, I had the privilege of going to Loma Linda. There I learned nursing under Frank Montgomery and several other skilled nurses. I nursed in the old hospital that was there before what they call the old hospital now was built. I had the privilege of learning to give hydrotherapy treatments both in the treatment room and on the wards. The first time I gave a patient a hot foot bath and fomentations in bed, the sheet got in the water. But that's the way we learn, you know.

I'm so glad that the Lord led me to learn something about nursing. I have much yet to learn. I'm so glad for all who are here tonight, especially interested in this. Just let me say this, if there are some of you tonight who don't claim to be nurses, get ready. Because we're going into times of epidemic and disaster when everybody that has two willing hands and a loving heart will be pressed into service.

Says Inspiration:

"We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work"
Loma Linda Messages, page 342.

While I was at Loma Linda training to be a medical missionary, we had a number of textbooks in various subjects such as you would expect in nursing and medical missionary work. There was one textbook that we had there that hasn't gone out of date. It is *Ministry of Healing*. The textbooks on other subjects have gone out of date, but this one never goes out of date.

"This book [*Ministry of Healing*] contains the wisdom of the Great Physician" *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 9, page 71.

I believe it. I've been glad to discover that this book, *Ministry of Healing*, is not just a textbook on what sick people can do to get well, or even on what well people can do to stay well. It includes all that. This book is a textbook for medical missionaries to know what their work is and how to carry it on. It's in that frame of reference that I present it to you tonight – the ministry of healing.

And I raise this question: What is nursing all about and what is medical missionary work all about? Why are we physicians, or nurses, or medical evangelists, or helpers in other lines? Why?

Well, somebody will say, "Because there are so many sick people and they need help."

Indeed. May I suggest to you that there is a deeper reason? If we will dig deep, we will find it. It is this, my friends; the greatest reason for medical missionary work is what it does to and for the medial missionary. God could look after sick people without me. I think He could do a much better job. Angels have many qualifications that I lack. But even if I were privileged to observe the angels do the nursing and the medical missionary work, if all I did was observe, all I could do would be to clap my hands, or say amen in appreciation. I wouldn't get the development.

The great reason, I repeat, that God has given you and me the privilege of being nurses in the sanitarium, in the hospital, in the homes, the great reason is not to get the work done, it's to get us done. In this harvest time how vital it is that we learn how to cooperate with God in the ripening of the crop. For when the harvest is come, when the crop is mature, the Son of man on the white cloud will appear with the sharp sickle and the harvest of earth will be reaped and we will go home. We want a part in it, don't we?

In the book *Ministry of Healing*, this one that we've been speaking of, this thought that I've just mentioned is to me emphasized on page 163:

"The strongest bond of union between us and [Christ] should be compassion for suffering...souls"
Ministry of Healing, page 163.

God hungers for our fellowship, not merely that we may get the benefit of being close to Him, but that He may get the joy of having *us* close to Him. And He has devised the medical missionary work that you and I may share His team, share the fellowship with Him. That's what it is all about.

Jesus and the nurse, Jesus and the physician, Jesus and the mother in the home, Jesus and the medical evangelist, working hand in hand and heart to heart. I repeat, God's greatest purpose is not just to get the work done, but it's to draw you and me into that close fellowship with Him which is thus brought about.

Another statement on this:

"Christ's followers have been redeemed for service. Our Lord teaches that the true object of life is ministry. Christ Himself was a worker, and to all His followers He gives the law of service--service to God and to their fellow men. Here Christ has presented to the world a higher conception of life than they had ever known. By living to minister for others, man is brought into connection with Christ" *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 326.

The law of service becomes the connecting link which binds us to God and to our fellow man. You want to be close to Jesus? You'll find Him not on some guided tour of the holy land. You will find Him where the sickbed calls for your ministry.

Where the ignorant call for your education. Where the sad call for your comfort. *There* are the footsteps of Jesus. And walking in those footsteps, we shall discern the fellowships, enter in to that fellowship, closer and closer with Jesus.

As I've been meditating on these themes my mind has been led to study one of the greatest nurses in the history of the world. It isn't Clara Barton or Florence Nightingale, although certainly we honor them. Someone who lived a long time before they came along. His name is Moses.

You may not have thought of Moses as a nurse, but we'll get the inspired presentation of it presently. I want you to think this evening a bit on Moses' experience as a nurse. How he learned it, why he learned it, and what God's purpose was. It may be that somebody here will catch a new vision, enter into a new perception of why God has made a nurse out of *you* as you consider the experience of Moses.

“Consider the experience of Moses” *Ministry of Healing*, page 474.

You will remember that Moses lived 120 years, and his life, interestingly enough, is divided into three periods of 40 years. The first 40 years he was getting ready in Egypt. The second 40 years he was getting ready in Midian. And the third 40 years he was carrying out his lifework.

The first 12 years, of course, he was with his mother in their Goshen home. He had already been adopted by the daughter of the Pharaoh of Egypt and he was the heir apparent to the throne of the world's greatest empire at that time. He was taken at 12 into the home of his foster mother and he received all the education that Egypt could give. Egypt was at that time the leading civilized nation of antiquity.

He learned science, literature, art. He learned military science. He became a very successful general, at one time saving the Egyptian army through some very shrewd military maneuvers that in his wisdom was given him.

At the age of 40, as he considered what his destiny was, you remember he turned aside from all that, turned his back on the throne of Egypt, and decided that he would give his life to that nation of slaves into which he had been born 40 years before.

And so he entered upon his work, hardly what we would expect a medical missionary to do, he killed a man. He meant all right, but he was using Egyptians methods. We can understand we might use Egyptian methods; those are the ones he had been trained in. When he saw that this wasn't going to work, that Israel was not going to rally to his standard, that his own life was in danger then he fled.

Away in the mountains of Midian we find him in retirement. But there he entered the nurse's course.

“As he led his flocks through the wilds of the mountains and into the green pastures of the valleys, he learned

faith and meekness, patience, humility, and self-forgetfulness. He learned to care for the weak, to nurse the sick, to seek after the straying, to bear with the unruly, to tend the lambs, and to nurture the old and the feeble” *Ibid*, pages 474-475.

Six verbs and seven nouns as objects of those verbs describing the nursing training and experience that Moses entered into. You will observe some of the various branches that he got into. Pediatric nursing is indicated. Psychiatrics, geriatrics, it’s all there. Look at it and you’ll see it.

“He learned to care for the weak, to nurse the sick, to seek after the straying, to bear with the unruly, to tend the lambs, and to nurture the old and the feeble” *Ibid*.

There it is.

You say, “Brother Frazee, these weren’t people. These were sheep.”

Yes, indeed. I think it would be wonderful if all the patients in every hospital and sanitarium could be taken care of by people who had practiced on sheep before they got to the bedside. I think it would bring up the quality of the nursing care, what do you think? It’s amazing to me what God sometimes allows you and me to do. I’ve thought of the sculptor who takes the beautiful marble and chisels and carves out a wonderful statue. But I’m quite certain that they don’t give the novice the best marble to work on when he starts in.

But God so often lets you and me as medical missionaries work with the most *expensive* material in the universe – human beings. For, oh, what a price has been paid for the bodies and the souls of men. Moses, of course, having been educated in the schools of Egypt had his ideas of how to deal with human beings. That’s why God had to take him out to the desert and let him work with sheep for a while.

It would be interesting if we had a moving picture of Moses in his early years of working with those sheep. He’d been used to giving commands and having people promptly act. But the sheep either just looked at him or ran away. He had to learn new methods, and he learned.

“He learned to care for the weak, to nurse the sick, to seek after the straying, to bear with the unruly, to tend the lambs, and to nurture the old and the feeble” *Ibid*.

Have we learned some of those lessons? In our service in the wards, or in the home? By the bedside or in the classroom? Have we learned these precious lessons of caring and bearing? Of seeking and tending? Of nurturing. *This* is the work of the medical missionary.

May I repeat and come back to it, emphasize by repetition, in all this, God is seeking primarily to develop you and me. He wants us to become like Him. He is gentle, kind, with the power and authority of the King of the universe; He combines

the meekness and love of the gentle shepherd. This is what He wants you and me to do, to learn in the practice of His medical missionary work a fellowship with Him, a love for humanity which is the *link* that binds us with Him. It's to be our closest tie of union, to love others as He has loved us.

Yes, Moses learned with sheep who go astray how to deal with *people* who go astray. He learned with sick sheep how to deal with sick people. He learned with unruly animals how to deal with unruly human beings. He learned to bear and to care. He learned so well in that 40 year nursing course that he took that when God called him to practice on people and leave the sheep with Jethro, he made only one mistake in 40 years. Too bad he made that one.

That's a wonderful record, isn't it friends? To the glory of God and to the credit of the nursing course that God put him through. I say that was an accredited nursing course. What do you say?

Shall we enter into it? I suggest that the schools of Egypt will not furnish us, either the curriculum or the textbooks. I suggest that we will need to have as our teacher, the Teacher who taught Moses. That spiritual Rock that went with them in the desert, and that rock was Christ. Oh what a medical missionary Jesus was, and is, and glad and willing He is to teach us.

Interestingly enough, Moses is still alive. Isn't he? Yes. Perhaps he's listening in on this study tonight. I'd like to hear his comment, wouldn't you? Pretty soon we'll be able to hear it firsthand. Oh I am sure that he'll have some interesting things to share with us. He'll ask us about our experiences too. We want to have some to share with him, don't we? Thank God. Thank God. We can be medical missionaries.

Now, have you ever thought of this experience in the life of Moses, this fact in the life experience of Moses that he was born for that very special work? He wasn't just one more boy born there in Goshen that chance and circumstance worked around in such a way that he did what he did. He was *born* for that destiny.

I've said that to say this, my dear friends: whether you know it or not, you've been born for a certain work. You have a certain destiny. It's only in fulfilling that destiny that you will find the fulfillment of every *longing* of your heart, every craving of your spirit.

I remember when I was a boy; sometimes somebody would give us a little picture about the size of a watch with a little cover over the top. Maybe it was a picture of a chicken. There was a little indentation where the eye of the chicken was, and there was a tiny little piece of lead that rolled around under that glass. And of course, the interesting thing was to roll that around until the little piece of lead dropped into the place made for it and then the picture was complete.

You are like that tiny little piece of lead, my friend. There is one place you belong. It took 80 years to get Moses ready to fill his place, and thank God, He filled it! We are not here in this meeting tonight by chance. There is a destiny. I say to

you, if the place you are filling is the place that somebody else can fill just as well or better than you, you'd better let them do it.

I say to you that there is only one place in all the world for you, and that's the place that you can fill better than anybody in this world. Now don't take my word for it, let me read it to you.

“Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God” *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 327.

I've tried to imagine how it would seem, to arrive at the New Jerusalem, this is of course purely imaginary and won't happen, thank the Lord, but think it through with me. I arrive at the New Jerusalem, and finally I meet Jesus. I say, “Jesus, is there any place here for me?” And He says, “Well wait a minute, and let's see what we can work out.” He calls Gabriel, and He says to Gabriel, “Here is our friend from the earth, he has just arrived along with others, is there any place we can put him?”

Gabriel consults the computer, and he says, “Down in housing development 1,311 on the eighth floor, room 560, there's a vacant bed. I think we might put him there.”

You know it would be wonderful to be in heaven even on that program, wouldn't it? Think of eating of the fruit of the tree of life and drinking of the water of life, and enjoying the music. But friends, of course, it won't be that way, will it? No. No.

My best friend, nearly 2,000 years ago, after having lived for me and died for me, and having risen for me, He ascended for me for the express purpose of making sure of my being there and of making sure that there was a place prepared for me. In a land of many mansions none of them were good enough for this man, there must be one especially prepared for me. You see, I'm hard to please, friends. Hard to please.

But Jesus has set Himself to the task of pleasing me, and He's going to do it. When I see the dream house that infinite love has arranged for me, and it won't be like what yours is, friends. It won't be like anything that anybody else has – a special creation arranged for me. Why? Because I'm different from other people. And so Jesus will take me, with His own dear hand He'll lead me to that house.

I've tried to think about it, friends. In my imagination, I see it as a little home by a lake. I like a lake. And a waterfall tumbling in at one end. I love a waterfall. And then a little stream flowing from that lake down the mountainside and away out over the plains and I love to stand there by that lake and look out over the plain miles and miles and miles.

If it isn't that, it'll be something better. But it'll be something for *me*, a special place like something that nobody else has.

Somebody is thinking, "Well Brother Frazee must think he's a V.I.P."

It's better than that – I *know* I am. The One that settles those things, the One whose opinion is worth noting has told me that I am just that. That I'm so important to Him, and so precious to Him, that He would have come all the long journey from Heaven to Bethlehem and on to Calvary just to get me, my friends. Just to get me!

Oh I am so glad that I can make Him happy by believing it. Wouldn't it be a shame after somebody has done all that to just look blank and say, "Oh, that's too much. That's too good to be true."

No, friend. It's too good not to be true. And by the mystery and glory of the cross we are to discern His estimate of the value of the soul. Yes, there is a special mansion for me in heaven, made for me, prepared for me, on purpose, from the drawing boards of heaven clear through to the completion of the edifice. All for me. Planned by infinite love.

But notice, our quote here says:

"Not more surely is the place prepared for us in the heavenly mansions than is the special place designated on earth where we are to work for God" *Ibid.*

Oh, think of it friends, just as I have a special place in heaven, I have a special place on earth. Thank God. I know that it's so. Oh, I hope every nurse here, and every physician, and every father and mother, and sister and brother, old and young, I hope every soul of you catches the thought tonight. If you've caught it before, your hearts are glad to hear it again, but there is somebody here, somebody here that's catching this for the first time. Oh let the glory of it, the grandeur of it, the thrill of it reach your heart, my friend.

You are precious; *you* are special. God forbid that you should spend your life in some humdrum run of the mill thing always wishing for something that you don't have. The most satisfying thing in life is to *know* that you are in the place that God made you for, doing the job that He planned for you to do.

Moses found that and he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. This is what carried him through all those 40 years of desert wandering with those people who so often failed to appreciate his ministry, but God appreciated it. And God and Moses were linked in a bond of fellowship that thrilled both of them.

God spoke to Moses face to face as a man speaketh unto his friend. God wants you to be His friend, and He has called you to be a medical missionary. Not simply so that sick people can be helped, the uneducated trained, the illiterate taught. No, no. Those are good motives, good purposes, but the great thing, I repeat, is that God is contriving; if it were a bad thing we'd say He's *scheming* to get you involved with Him in a work that makes absolutely necessary a fellowship with Him. You can't do it unless you have that fellowship with Him.

Moses couldn't have succeeded without it. You can't succeed without it. Don't try. What we are studying tonight is as far from conventional nursing as Moses' work with Israel was far from his Egyptian education down there on the Nile.

Oh friends, we have a glorious opportunity, a glorious destiny. Let's seek that fellowship with Jesus, what do you say? Let's tell our Lord that we want to do the thing that we were born for, that we want to link with Jesus in the *one* thing we were made for.

And you won't misunderstand and think this means that we should avoid all that is common and routine, and domestic. You won't get the idea that it means that the only thing that God has called us for and to is what the world calls greatness and grandeur, will you? Oh no.

Moses, called by God, spent 40 years herding sheep. Jesus trained in the home and in the carpenter shop at Nazareth from the time He was old enough to handle tools until He was 30 years of age. The glory of what we're studying tonight is a glory that lights up the common duties of life. Whether they are in the home, on the wards, in the sick room, in the operating room, at the five-day plan, or out in the home of some poor person. Wherever there is service that needs to be done, if that's where God's providence has assigned me, that is where I can have the fellowship with Jesus.

But unless I see this vision, I'll be trying to plan for myself. Notice in this same chapter we've been looking at here:

"Too many, in planning for a brilliant future, make an utter failure. Let God plan for you. God never leads His children otherwise than they would choose to be led, if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose which they are fulfilling as co-workers with Him" *Ministry of Healing*, page 479.

I know that this doesn't make sense to the human mind that is not converted. I know that it seems visionary. It is a vision, but given by the Holy Spirit to those whose eyes have been touched by the hand of Christ. Oh blessed are your eyes for they see, if they do see, blessed are your ears for they hear, if they do hear. Blessed are your hearts and minds if they understand and appreciate this glorious vision, this precious opportunity.

Ahead of us just a little ways is the great crisis of the ages. God intends that the loud cry message along with the strong straight doctrines pointing out truth and exposing error, shall be a medical ministry of love that shall melt its way into the hearts of thousands upon thousands of people.

God is training now as He trained Moses in Midian. God is training as He trained His own Son in the home and the carpenter shop at Nazareth. He's training people in the practical things to bring religion into the everyday life in a loving, tender, sweet, and precious way.

Oh my dear friends, young or old, if your heart is restless, I invite you to seek what Moses sought in Midian, and what Jesus entered into at Nazareth. God is calling you into an experience of fellowship with Him, and the doorway to it is full surrender. Notice what it says about Moses:

“In this work Moses was drawn nearer to the Chief Shepherd. He became closely united to the Holy One of Israel. No longer did he plan to do a great work. He sought to do faithfully as unto God the work committed to his charge” *Ibid.*, page 475.

The paradox of it is that the greatest work in all the world may be what the world calls humble and commonplace.

Master, where shall I work today?
And my love flowed warm and free.

And He pointed me out a tiny plot and said,
tend that for Me.

But I answered quickly, Oh no, not there,
not anyone could see no matter how well my work was done.
Not that little place for me.

And He answered me kindly, Little one, search that heart of
thine. Are you working for them, or for Me?

Nazareth was just a little place, and so was Galilee. To find the place of God's appointment, and to fill it in fellowship with Christ, *this* is the fulfillment of your destiny, and the fulfillment of your heart's desires. May it be your happy lot is my prayer.

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